Clearance to Pak table-tennis team

* 95. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in clearance has discouraged the Pakistan table-tennis team to participate in the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in conveying the clearance; and

(c) what steps have been taken to counter Pakistan media's contention of linking the delay to India's pulling out of Sharjah cricket tournament?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI): (a) to (c) The Table-Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) submitted an application on 31.1.2001 seeking approval and financial assistance of Government for holding the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship at New Delhi from 14th to 20th April, 2001. Thereafter, on 13.2.2001, the Federation indicated that Pakistan and Fiji are not participating in this Championship. Accordingly, after obtaining the clearance of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, permission was given to TTFI for holding the even' from 14th to 20th April, 2001. Later on, the Table-Tennis Federation informed on 22.3.2001 that Pakistan has confirmed its participation. As such after obtaining the clearance of Ministry of External Affairs, the approval for inviting the Table-Tennis Team of Pakistan was conveyed on 11th April, 2001. As such, it will be seen that there has been no delay on the part of the Government of India in giving clearance to the participation of Pakistan Table-Tennis Team in the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship.

There is no basis for linking Pakistan's non-participation in the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship with India's decision not to play in Sharjah. India's decision for not playing in Sharjah Cricket tournament is based on a policy decision taken by the Government of India not to play any cricket matches at non-regular Cricket venues at least for a period of three years.

Rehabilitation scheme for FCI

* 96. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to slate: